

Applicant: Johnson, Bruce
Serial No.: 10/806,796
Filed: 03/23/2004
Title: Personal Fuel Hose Lift
Examiner: Maust, ART UNIT 3751

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A personal fuel hose lift adapted as a personal tool for ergonomically lifting a portion of a fuel hose, comprising
 - a handle adapted for a user to hold while lifting a fuel hose within the lift,
 - a bar depending from the handle on a bar first end,
 - a fuel hose support on a bar second, or distal, end separating the handle from the support, the support, handle and bar generally in C-shape with an open portion opposite the bar and sized to receive a fuel hose therethrough into the lift intermediate the fuel hose, the support including a trough opposite the handle, the trough sized to receive the fuel hose from the lift open portion and adapted to slide along the fuel hose lifting portions of a fuel hose progressively along the line causing residual fuel to drain by gravity away from successively raised portions and out of the fuel hose.
2. (Previously presented) The personal fuel hose lift of claim 1 wherein the trough further comprises a support distal portion directed upward from a support lower portion to the lift open portion.
3. (Currently amended) A personal fuel hose lift adapted as a personal tool for ergonomically lifting a portion of a fuel hose, comprising
 - a handle adapted for a user to hold while lifting a fuel hose within the lift,
 - a bar depending from the handle on a bar first end,
 - a fuel hose support on a bar second, or distal, end separating the handle from the support, the support, handle and bar generally in C-shape with an open portion sized to receive a fuel hose therethrough into the lift intermediate the fuel hose,

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the support including a trough opposite the handle, the trough sized to receive the fuel hose from the lift open portion and adapted to slide along the fuel hose lifting portions of a fuel hose progressively along the line causing residual fuel to drain by gravity away from successively raised portions and out of the fuel hose, and

~~The personal fuel hose lift of claim 1 further comprising~~

- a roller on the support on which the fuel hose rests in the trough.
- 4. (Previously presented) The personal fuel hose lift of claim 3 wherein the trough comprises the roller with a first circumferential raised flange about its distal end.
- 5. (Previously presented) The personal fuel hose lift of claim 4 wherein the roller further includes a second circumferential raised flange about its proximal end adjacent the bar supporting the fuel hose therein central in the trough, the trough defined between the roller first and second circumferential raised flanges.
- 6. (Previously presented) The personal fuel hose lift of claim 4 wherein the handle, support and roller are horizontal and the bar is vertical.
- 7. (Previously presented) The personal fuel hose lift of claim 1 wherein the support comprises a lubric outer surface facilitating sliding of the support along the fuel hose.
- 8. (Currently amended) A personal fuel hose lift adapted as a personal tool for ergonomically lifting a portion of a fuel hose, comprising
 - a handle adapted for a user to hold while lifting a fuel hose within the lift,
 - a bar depending from the handle on a bar first end,
 - a fuel hose support on a bar second, or distal, end separating the handle from the support, the support, handle and bar generally in C-shape with an open portion sized to receive a fuel hose therethrough into the lift intermediate the fuel hose,

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the support including a trough opposite the handle, the trough sized to receive the fuel hose from the lift open portion and adapted to slide along the fuel hose lifting portions of a fuel hose progressively along the line causing residual fuel to drain by gravity away from successively raised portions and out of the fuel hose,

The personal fuel hose lift of claim 4

wherein the bar is of length such that as the user walks in erect posture along the fuel hose with the fuel hose in the lift, the user with the lift hanging from the user's downward extended arm lifts the fuel hose in successive portions progressively draining residual fuel out of the fuel hose.

9. (Previously presented) The personal fuel hose lift of claim 8 wherein the bar is of length such that the fuel hose portion is lifted a distance from the ground equal to its diameter.
10. (Previously presented) The personal fuel hose lift of claim 8 wherein the bar is adjustable in length comprising a first inner member telescoping from a second outer member and secured at a preferred relative position by a locking pin, adjusted to the user such that the fuel hose portion in the lift trough is lifted a distance from the ground when the lift hangs from the user's straight arm reaching downward.
11. (Previously presented) The method of draining residual fuel from a fuel hose connected to a fuel delivery truck to deliver fuel from the truck to an underground storage employing a lift having a handle adapted for a user to hold while lifting a fuel hose within the lift, a bar depending from the handle on a bar first end, and a fuel hose support on a bar second, or distal, end separating the handle from the support, the support, handle and bar generally in C-shape with an open portion sized to receive a fuel hose therethrough

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into the lift intermediate the fuel hose, the support including a trough opposite the handle, comprising the following steps:

- (a) placing the lift over the hose, the hose entering the lift through the lift open portion near the truck at the truck tank valve;
- (b) grasping the handle to allow the lift to move vertical of its own weight over the hose;
- (c) guiding the hose into the lift trough as the user;
- (d) walking in erect posture from the truck along the fuel hose with the lift hanging from the user's downwardly extending arm, the lift sized to engage the hose in its trough at a hose engagement level several inches above the ground, the lift lifting the fuel hose progressively along the fuel hose urging fuel in the hose to move forward of the lift by gravity while hose portions rearward of the lift fall to the ground empty of fuel.